

the afternoon stage was to complete the  
ten miles  
planned for the day.

If Fritz and Frank had been alone,  
they would  
have paid no heed to fatigue. They  
would have  
marched all night and made but a  
single stage of  
the whole journey to the defile\* They  
may have  
had the idea now, and it was certainly  
very tempt-  
ing, for they could have got to Rock  
Castle in the  
afternoon of the following day. But they  
did not  
venture to suggest going on ahead.

Besides, think of the happiness of all  
arriving  
together at their much-desired  
goal, to throw  
themselves into the arms of the relations  
and friends  
who had been waiting so long for them,  
who might  
\* have lost all hope of ever seeing  
them again 1

The second stage was done under the  
same  
conditions as the first, in order to  
husband the  
strength of Jenny and Dolly and Susan  
Wolston\*

No incident occurred, and about  
four o'clock  
in the afternoon the edge of the  
forest was  
reached.

A fertile champaign extended beyond.  
Its vege-  
tation was entirely due to the  
productivity of the  
soil, verdant grass-lands and woods or  
clumps of

trees studding the country right up to  
the entrance  
to the Green Valley.

A few herds of stags and deer passed  
in the  
^distance, but there was no question  
of hunting  
them. Numerous flocks of  
ostriches were also